

Acronia baccata Luer, sp. nov. TYPE: Colombia—Valle del Cauca: El Cairo; Cerro del Inglés, Serranía Paraguas, alt. 2130 m, 24 Mar. 2002, P.A. Silverstone-Sopkin, N. Paz & J. Contreras 8871 (Holotype: CUV; Isotype: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21263.

FIGURE 3.

Inter species generis Acroniae sectionis Acroniae planta debilis, racemo plurifloro folio anguste ovato attenuato brevior, floribus albis parvis suborbicularibus, sepalo synsepaloque concavis, petalis carnosae proportione grandis, labelli lateribus erectis cum apice late breviter acuminato differt.

Plant small to medium in size, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls very slender, erect but weak, 5–13 cm long, enclosed by thin tubular sheaths near middle and at the base. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, narrowly ovate, attenuate, acute, shallowly cordate at the base, sessile, 3–6 cm long, 0.9–1.2 cm wide. **Inflorescence** a simultaneously several-flowered raceme borne on top of the leaf, 3–3.5 cm long including the peduncle ca. 1 cm long, produced from a narrow spathe 5–6 mm long at the base of the leaf; floral bracts 1.5 mm long; pedicels 2.5 mm long; ovary 1 mm long; **sepals** white, glabrous, the dorsal sepal forward, concave, broadly elliptical, obtuse, 3 mm long, 2.2 mm wide, 3-veined, the lateral sepals connate into an ovoid synsepal, 3 mm long, 2.7 mm wide, 4-veined, suffused with yellow toward the tip; **petals** fleshy, elliptical, obtuse, thickened toward the tip, 2.6 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, 3-veined; **lip** green, fleshy, cellular-spiculate, ovoid with erect, broadly rounded sides, the apex broadly obtuse with a short, acute, acuminate tip, 1.5 mm long, 1.8 mm wide expanded, the base truncate, hinged to the base of the column; **column** semiterete, 0.5 mm long,

0.5 mm wide, the anther apical, the stigma bilobed, apical.

Etymology. From the Latin *baccatus*, “set with pearls,” in allusion to the row of tiny, round flowers.

Comments. This species seems most closely allied to the old, familiar *Pleurothallis truncata* Lindl., which presently resides in *Acronia*. The raceme of small, suborbicular flowers shorter than the leaf; a deeply concave dorsal sepal and synsepal; large, fleshy petals; and a small, suborbicular lip with erect, rounded sides are common to both.

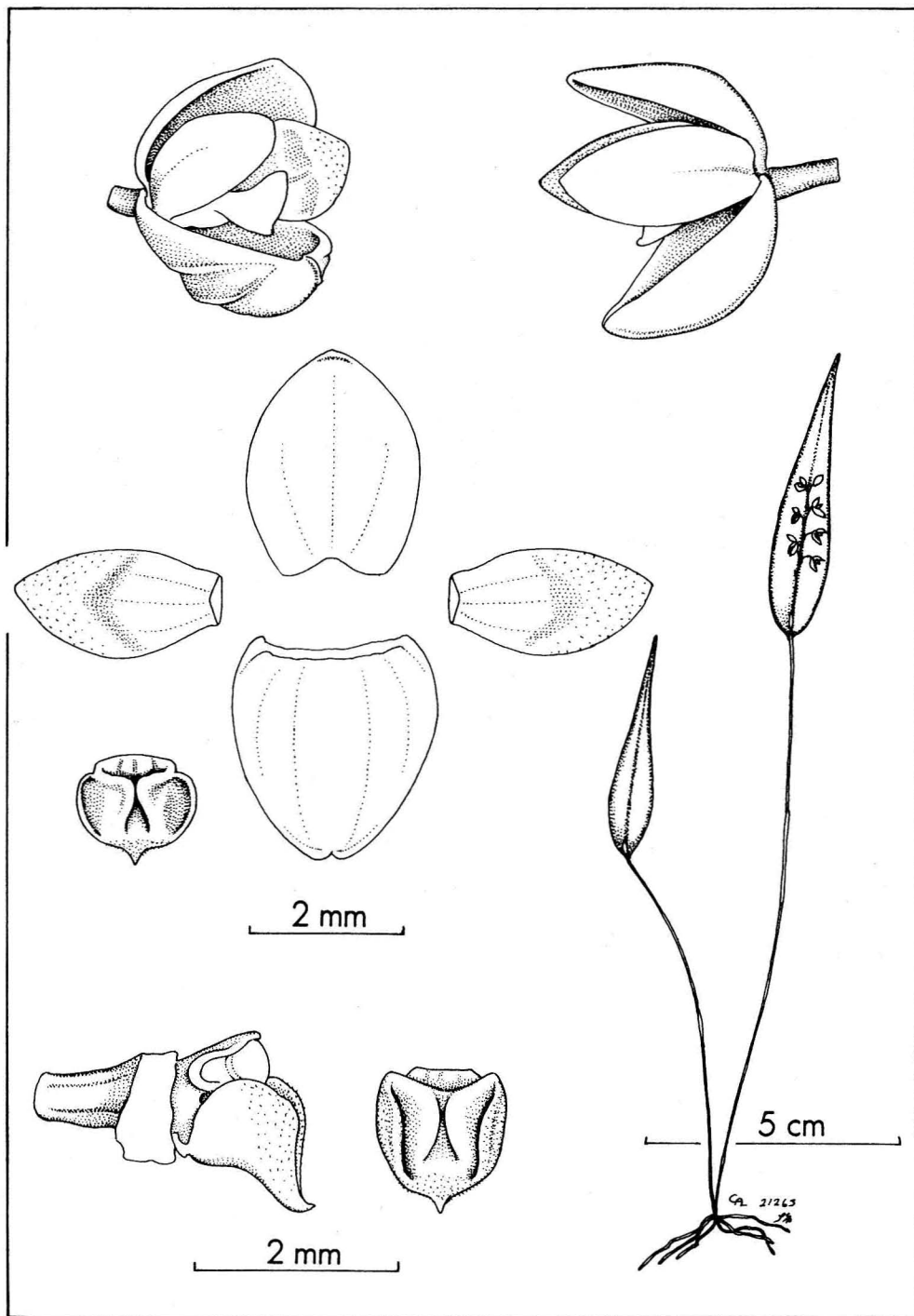


FIGURE 3. *Aconia baccata* Luer, C. Luer illustr. 21263.